

Psychology ATAR

Year 11 Course Code	AEPSY
Year 12 Course Code	ATPSY
Highly Recommended	Year 11: A or B grade throughout the year in Year 10 Science. 65% in both semester Science examinations. 90% attendance in Year 10. OLNA Category 3. Recommendation by Head of Learning Area.
	Year 12: A or B grade in Year 11 Psychology
Cost	\$60.00 (cost is approximate – subject to change)

Year 11 and Year 12 Course Overview

In the Psychology ATAR course students will be introduced to psychological knowledge which supports an understanding of the way individuals function in groups. Students learn about major psychological models and theories, and the methods used to conduct scientific investigations in the discipline of psychology. Students apply research methods and ethical principles as they analyse data to illustrate how empirical procedures are used to examine phenomena, such as memory, attention, attitudes, personality and group behaviour. Acquiring this foundation of scientific method and critical thinking is a valuable skill which students can apply throughout their study, work and everyday lives.

Year 11 Course Structure

Unit 1 - This unit focuses on a number of concepts that enable students to gain an understanding of how and why people behave the way they do. Students are introduced to the human brain, focusing on the major parts and lobes of the cerebral cortex, and review case studies, illustrating the link between the brain and behaviour.

Unit 2 - This unit introduces students to developmental psychology by looking at the concept of average development and changes expected as people age. They analyse twin and adoption studies to gain insight into the nature/nurture debate and look at the role of play in assisting development

Year 12 Course Structure

Unit 3 - In this unit, students study the functions of the four lobes of the cerebral cortex and examine how messages are transmitted from the brain to the body. They focus on how behaviour is influenced by learning, by reviewing classical and operant conditioning, negative and positive reinforcement and observational learning.

Unit 4 - In this unit, students are introduced to theories of development, including Piaget's theory of cognitive development and Kohlberg's theory of moral development. They review contemporary personality theories and their limitations and analyse the causes of conformity and obedience by investigating the results of famous experiments conducted by Asch, Milgram and Zimbardo.